

Meeting of the General Membership
MAA MD-DC-VA Section
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA
April 27, 2024

David Taylor, Presiding

Section Chair Taylor called the meeting to order, and appointed Ray Cheng as Acting Secretary.

There was general consent to postpone approval of the minutes of the previous Meeting of the General Membership, the requisite document being unavailable.

Phillip Poplin, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Poplin remarked on the receipt of donated funds, and noted that both the General Fund and attendance levels are on par with pre-Covid levels. There was discussion about emphasizing positivity in labeling of early vs. on-site registration.

Margaret Rahmoeller, Section Representative, reminded members of the upcoming MathFest in Indianapolis. She will communicate proposed bylaw changes to be considered at the next National Congress. Section Representatives currently serve 3-year terms, but that has changed to a 4-year term. There was an option of Representative Rahmoeller serving a 4th year, or another member serving out the remaining year of the newly extended term; the former option had been selected by the Executive Board. Representative Rahmoeller welcomed any questions, comments and concerns to be considered at the next National Congress. Program Chair Yagodich announced her intention to organize a membership round table at MathFest, emphasizing outreach to community colleges. Chair Taylor seeks National's opinion on joint sponsorship of section meetings with external organizations, e.g., AMATYC. Past Chair Linehan inquired about post-Covid attendance levels of other sections; Program Chair Yagodich suggested that the Committee on Sections might possess those statistics.

Executive Board Reports

Program Chair Yagodich had no report, except to express satisfaction at the success of the present section meeting. Members lauded her service as Program Chair, and expressed best wishes for her anticipated move to another section.

Vice Program Chair Patterson solicited recommendations for future invited speakers. There was brief discussion of possible format changes in future meetings, e.g., the use of both 20-minute and 30-minute contributed talks.

Newsletter Editor Lynch had no report, except to encourage submission of news items.

Student Activities Coordinator Ledford praised the high level of participation in this year's student activities, noting for instance that there are 12 Radical Dash teams.

New Faculty Coordinator Tysse was away, directing a Section NExT activity.

Past Chair Linehan had no report. Members expressed congratulations for the completion of her doctorate.

At-Large Member Cheng updated the members on the status of planning for the fall section meeting.

Chair Taylor read the citation for the John M. Smith Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. That recognition went to Professor Dewey Taylor (no relation) of Virginia Commonwealth University. Nominations for other awards were welcomed. It was suggested that in the future these awards be announced alongside the student awards, to ensure a larger audience.

Chair Taylor expressed his thanks to the outgoing section officers, and presented each with a gift. Congratulations went to the newly elected section officers.

Chair Taylor issued a Call for Interest in the Awards Committee. The committee is tasked with making nominations for teaching and service awards, writing the accompanying citations, and conveying nominations to National.

Future Section Meetings will include the Fall 2024 meeting at Old Dominion University. Discussions have begun on a possible location for Spring 2025. Chair Taylor expressed his wish for a geographically central location, and possible co-sponsorship with an external organization. Program Chair Yagodich asked whether the MAA location in DC would be suitable for hosting a joint meeting, and Chair Taylor replied that it could be too small for such an undertaking.

Chair Taylor was pleased to announce a series of generous donations to the section. He is working with the donor to determine a plan for the usage of the funds. The members expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the donor.

Members were encouraged to send news items to Newsletter Editor Lynch by June 15. The Chair explained that previously the semi-annual newsletter was timed to generate interest in the spring and fall meetings. Under the new release cycle, the newsletters have been decoupled from the meetings, thus creating four touch points with the members each year.

During the Open Discussion period, Chair Taylor reflected with pride on the healthy financial state of the section, the high level of participation at the section meeting, and the energy and enthusiasm of the incoming section officers.

Under New Business, a resolution was proposed to direct the Secretary to draft a letter to JMU, tendering the section's most gracious thanks for hosting the meeting. The motion carried by general acclaim. A motion was made to revisit the question of awarding certificates for 25 and 50 year members. Without objection, the motion was approved.

A motion to Adjourn was seconded. The members signified their assent by vacating the premises.